

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAM-01 OMB-01 SR-02 AID-05 ABF-01 /075 W

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R 221345Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6773

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3136

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IS, EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN GAZA

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH OFFICIAL
OF ISRAELI MILITARY GOVT IN GAZA (LIRAN),
WE ASKED WHETHER AND HOW PLAN OF DEFMIN PERES
TO INSTITUTE GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY IN
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN
GAZA.

2. LIRAN FIRST SAID THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN SITUATIONS ON WEST BANK AND IN GAZA THAT
PERES DID NOT SEEM TO APPRECIATE FULLY. AS
EXAMPLES HE MENTIONED TRADITIONAL RIVALRY BETWEEN
LEADING FAMILIES OF NABLUS AND HEBRON, WHICH
HAS NO COUNTERPART IN GAZA; AND FACT THAT
PALESTINIAN REFUGEE POPULATION CONSTITUTES SMALL
MINORITY OF WEST BANK POPULATION BUT MAJORITY
IN GAZA. AS RESULT, WHAT MIGHT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE
ON WEST BANK WAS REALISTIC, IF STILL DIFFICULT,
PROPOSITION IN GAZA.

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3. AFTER ASSERTING THAT THERE MAY BE "REAL SURPRISE" IN ADMINISTRATION OF GAZA IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, LIRAN SAID THAT GOI IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING LOCAL DELIBERATIVE BODY REPRESENTING ENTIRETY OF GAZA STRIP, WHICH WOULD BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS AFFECTING ENTIRE AREA. (LIRAN USED TERM "MAJLIS".) HE ADMITTED THERE COULD BE PROBLEMS AT FIRST BECAUSE OF NECESSARILY APPOINTIVE NATURE OF MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANT APPEARANCE OF COLLABORATION WITH OCCUPYING POWER. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE COULD BE OVERCOME IF GOI WERE WILLING TO GIVE GROUP REAL AUTHORITY.

4. LIRAN CONCEIVED REPRESENTATION TO BE PARTIALLY BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND PARTIALLY BY ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPS. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT WHEREAS GOI MUST RETAIN POWER TO DECIDE SIZE OF BUDGETARY PIE TO BE PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF LOCAL BODY, LATTER MUST BE GIVEN POWER TO DECIDE HOW PIE WOULD BE CUT. LIRAN ADDED OBVIOUS FACT THAT MATTERS OF SECURITY WOULD REMAIN IN GOI HANDS.

5. LIRAN INSISTED THAT PERSONS TO FILL RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS WERE AVAILABLE, CITING RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS OF PALESTINIANS FROM GAZA WHO HAD COMPLETED HIGHER EDUCATION AND WANTED TO RETURN. ASKED ABOUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITH SUCH POLITICAL FACTIONS AS EXIST IN GAZA, LIRAN POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IN CASE OF FAMILY WHICH WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS SUCH AS SHAWWA CLAN, PROBLEM WAS PRIMARILY WITH OLDER MEMBERS WHEREAS YOUNGER EDUCATED SHAWWAS WERE EAGER TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE THAT SCHEME SUCH AS DESCRIBED ABOVE HAS BEEN IN MIND OF LIRAN FOR SOME TIME. HOWEVER, WE WOULD ASSESS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FINDING CAPABLE YOUNG MEN WILLING TO HOLD OFFICE UNDER ISRAELI

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OCCUPATION AS ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS DIFFICULT THAN ON WEST BANK, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND IT TO BE TRUE THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF COLLEGE-TRAINED GAZAN RESIDENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO RETURN BUT HERETOFORE HAVE HAD NO MEANINGFUL POSITIONS TO HOLD. IF IN FACT GOI IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY IN GAZA, LIRAN MAY HAVE SOLD IDEA OF ATTEMPTING SUCH MOVE AT THIS TIME ON

GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE LOCAL
AUTHORITY AVAILABLE TO OVERSEE WHATEVER CHANGES
MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES
SHOULD THOSE PROVIDED BY UNRWA HAVE TO BE CUT
BACK (TEL AVIV 2991).
VELIOTES

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